Quick Tips Summary

The Clean Water Checklist



Are you doing your part? Use this quick guide to keep your yard and neighborhood on track:



❑ NEVER dump yard waste into ditches, ravines or storm drains.

❑ KEEP a 10-foot perimeter around storm drains completely clear of debris.





❑ BLOW clippings and leaves back into your yard, not into the street.

❑ TALK to your landscaper to ensure they follow these same clean-water practices.



REMEMBER:
If it's on the GROUND, it's in our WATER.



Be A Good Neighbor

Watch Out for Each Other

Claremore thrives when we all do our part. Make a promise to yourself that you'll keep our neighborhood streets and local waters clean.

✓ **Check Your Drain:** Routinely clear leaves and debris away from the storm drain or ditch in front of your home.

✓ **Spread the Word:** Remind neighbors and yard care contractors to keep clippings off the pavement.

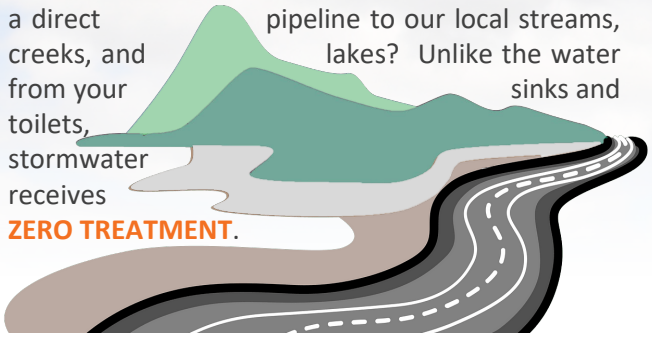
✓ **Report Violations:** If you see illegal dumping into storm drains, contact the local stormwater hotline (phone and email below).





The Hidden Highway
Beneath Our Feet

Did you know that our storm drains and ditches are a direct pipeline to our local streams, creeks, and lakes? Unlike the water from your sinks and toilets, stormwater receives **ZERO TREATMENT**.



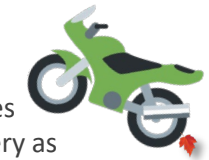
Whatever is in our streets ends up in our local waterways.

CLEAN STREETS, CLEAR WATER

The Problem with Yard Waste

When leaves, grass clippings, and yard debris are left in the street or dumped in ditches, rain washes them straight into the water system.

- **WATER POLLUTION** – Decaying leaves and grass release massive amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen. This triggers toxic algae blooms that kill fish and ruin swimming spots.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD FLOODING** – Piles of yard waste quickly clog grates and pipes. This causes water to back up into streets, yards, and even basements during heavy rains.



- **SAFETY HAZARDS** – Wet leaves on the pavement are as slippery as ice, creating a dangerous driving and walking condition.

Fall Solutions:
Master your Grass
Actionable Steps for Lawn Care

You can maintain a beautiful lawn while protecting our waters. Switch up your routine with these simple habits:



- **Leave it on the Lawn** – Use a mulching mower to chop grass clippings into tiny pieces. Leave them on your lawn to return vital nutrients to the soil naturally.
- **Sweep, Don't' Hose** – Always sweep or blow stray clippings from your driveway, sidewalk, and street back onto your lawn. Never wash them into the ditches or streets.



Home landscaping and yard waste is second only to paper in the municipal solid waste streams. Lawn & garden pesticides & fertilizers can threaten water quality.

- **Mow High** - Set your mower blades to 3 inches. Taller grass develops deeper roots, absorbs more water, and naturally crowds out weeds.



Autumn Action:
Manage Your Leaves
Actionable Steps for Fall Yard Maintenance

When Autumn arrives, managing the leaf drop prevents neighborhood flooding and keeps local waster clean.



- **Compost Your Leaves** – Mix leaves with grass clippings to create nutrient-rich compost for your garden beds.



- **Mulch for Fertilizer** – Shred a light layer of leaves right into your lawn with your mower to protect grass roots for the winter.



- **Bag for Collection** – If your city offers yard waste pickup, bag your leaves and place them on the curb – never in the street or ditch.



- **Keep Drains Clear** – Be a good neighbor. Check the storm drain or ditch near your property and clear away any accumulated debris before it rains.

Over 20 states restrict or ban yard waste from landfills because decomposing organic matter produces methane gas.

Open burning of leaves and yard debris releases pollutants and smoke that aggravate asthma and other respiratory conditions.